

# The Hermiston Herald

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## The Spirit of Hermiston

The spirit of the citizens of any town or city is what makes or mars the progress of that town or city. It will result in deterioration or lead on to advancement. There can be no status quo.

Hermiston has moved forward during most of its 37 years of history. There were times when progress seemed only to mark time, but during those years of depression its spirit never sounded retreat.

Hermiston first saw the light of day with the birth of an irrigation project. Those were good days, and a boom through settlement of lands and the building of the town followed. Settlers and business men came from near and far. Some had sufficient funds, some were partly financed, but had experience, strength, and the lure of adventure. Most of them had faith in the future and the field of opportunity.

Those were the days of the big red apple boom in the Pacific Northwest, and this area largely fell for that delusion. Thousands of apple trees were planted and grown to maturity before the mistake was discovered. Apples were beautiful, peaches large and luscious, and grapes were magnificent, but they failed to yield a profit. A change had to be made. A few hard heads had tried dairying and found it paid. Then came on chickens and hogs and turkeys to prove out successful year by year. The spirit of the people promoted the change from the use of the land for tree fruits to alfalfa and pastures. It was a time when surrender to the enemies and struggles of pioneer development could have turned the entire west end of Umatilla county back to the Indians, jack rabbits and coyotes.

Instead, the people asked for more land and more water, and a wider spread. They requested the Reclamation Bureau to study the West Extension—Irrigon and Boardman—and it was a memorable day, when at a large banquet, Franklin K. Land, then Secretary of the Interior, set aside a cool million for that project. Spirits revived and new movements forward began. The Stanfield and Westland projects, contemporaries of the East Umatilla project, found themselves short of storage water. All the communities organized, and in common parlance, went after the McKay Dam, and got the \$2,500,000.00 appropriation necessary to construct it. There should be many lines between these brief statements for you newcomers to read and for whom this is mainly written. There was plenty of effort, loads of struggles, some politics, but we are talking specifically of spirit, and what you can see and more, and more to come is due to that untiring progressive spirit. Try to get it.

In the beginning there was the earth—no people, no schools, no churches, no roads, no towns, no electric power—just a place to put them. The Columbia highways, the Diagonal road and Butter Creek highway were created by home demands. There may be one vote recorded in all these years against a school tax or support, and out of this spirit grew the school buildings and Union High district. The public library was another such successful movement. The very important farm cooperatives and their facilities were due to the spirit of farmers and other citizens. How many who now receive benefits from cannery, laundry, creamery and lockers, mill and stores, and the R. E. A., realize the way up these traveled over the roads to advancement of human welfare?

With that business men went down in their pockets one afternoon and donated the land for Tertelton, now being so well improved. They dug down again for the latest housing project of 50 homes. The city government has just enlarged an excellent water system to the artesian well and ten miles of mains. A five mile sewer system has just been completed, and well laid plans are being made for future municipal developments. The city park of 76 acres required much public spirit and local funds. The great Umatilla Ordnance Depot was located because of an effort of the old Commercial Club to locate a cantonment and artillery range during World War I, when the site was placed before the army board and on the war maps, to receive attention years later. Along with all these went to work for the Umatilla Rapids dam. It was the same spirit that kept that dam on the map and secured support for that dam and to set up the date for its early construction. In the foregoing facts and the forward spirit lie the changes from a vast desert and silent waters to a vastness for uses of mankind.

The present rapid growth of Hermiston is due to the enterprising spirit of its citizens, created in its pioneer days and caught by the younger men of this regime. Very few of the old guard are left but there is a fine regiment of younger men tenting on the old camp ground. They are not only doing their job well but have plenty ahead to lure them on to bigger and better achievements.

## BOARDMAN NEWS

By Margaret Thorpe

Mr. and Mrs. Max Watkins and son spent the week here visiting her father, Frank Walker, and her sister, Mrs. Mabel Bischke. They spent part of the week elk hunting.

A committee meeting was held at the Tannehill home Tuesday night to make plans for the PTA meetings for the coming year.

The Grange Executive committee met Wednesday night at the McFarland home to lay plans for Pomona, and installation of officers which is to be here December 15. The installation will be put on by the State Officers and the State Master will be present to tell some of his experiences on his recent trip to England.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Thorpe showed pictures in the Grange hall Thursday night. They will be held every Sunday and Wednesday evening.

A surprise birthday party was given by the teachers in honor of Mrs. Ronald Black Thursday night at the Black home. The evening was spent playing Bingo.

The school carnival Friday night was a great success. Approximately 200 door tickets were sold. Peter Cassidy won the bond which was raffled off and Leo Skoubo won the \$5.00 door prize. Shirley Peck and Delmer Hug of the 5th and 6th grades were crowned prince and princess and Eldon Lilly and Doris Wilson of the high school were crowned king and queen. Many people from out of town attended as

well as many visitors who used to live here.

Mrs. Maxine Klein and Paul Jacobson of Portland and Beaverton spent the week end at the Harter home. Paul is a nephew and Mrs. Klein is a sister of Mrs. Harter.

Mr. and Mrs. Pat Healy and children of Portland visited his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Mike Healy this week. They also visited his sister and family, Mrs. Buster Rands.

Dave Johnston returned from Alaska Friday where he has been employed for the past nine months.

The Wilson family spent one day in The Dalles this week where they met Teddy for a short visit.

Mrs. Olive Attebury left this week for California where she will remain for an indefinite stay visiting relatives.

Mrs. Neal Bleakney who is a former Boardman resident is very ill with sleeping sickness.

Francis Harter left Monday for Salem to attend a teachers meeting. The seniors went to Portland with him on their annual sneak.

Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Tannehill has received word that their son Don has been promoted to sergeant.

Darlene Gilstrap is in the hospital very ill with a ruptured appendix.

Mr. Abplanalp of Hermiston was on the project Sunday selling black walnut trees.

Mrs. Claude Coates, Mrs. Glen Mallory and son and Mrs. Gillespie spent Saturday in Pendleton.

Miss Francis Skoubo of Pendleton

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George Harkenrider

Hermiston, Oregon

spent the week end visiting her parents.

Mr. and Mrs. Veto Colosso and sons of Arlington attended the carnival Friday night. Dick is home from the navy on a few days leave.

Word has been received that Mrs. Nick Faler is in the Portland sanitarium. She recently underwent an operation for hernia.

Mrs. Zoe Billings and daughter moved into the Fortier house Saturday.

Mrs. Mabel Allen and Mr. and Mrs. Rordell left Monday morning for Tacoma.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Gorham spent the week end at Blalock, visiting Mr. and Mrs. Roy Wolfe.

Mr. and Mrs. Nate Macomber spent Friday in Grandview and the week end in Pendleton.

Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Carlson and

family of Portland have moved onto the Davis place which they recently purchased.

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to measure every grain  
of coffee...



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TO "PERK" IT!



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